

Conductor, Star Draw Accolades in 'Boheme'

By VERA MILLS
Two surprising people were evident in the South Bay-Torrance Civic Symphony's production of "La Boheme." Both were women! First was the conductor, Elyse Aehle. The other was Evelyn Wald, soprano, who sang the title role of "Mimi."

Conductor Elyse Aehle showed that she is fully aware of the orchestral enchantment in "Boheme." With orchestra and cast, she embodied in the music the yearning for the strangely beautiful Romanticism.

She is fitted by temperament and knowledge to reveal these salient qualities of "La Boheme." She has the Romantic instinct and has given time to the study needed to project it in an authentic manner. All of this we are surprised to find in a woman. But perhaps this is fortunate, because, if she were a man, she would probably be in larger fields and would not have spent 20 years here for the development of serious music and art.

TO ONE who has seen and heard the most famous "Mimi" in the world at La Scala, the "Met," and Opera Paris, it was an amazing experience to hear, in a community production, the finest

interpretation of "Mimi" she had ever enjoyed! Evelyn Wald was the kind of "Mimi" one dreams about but never expects to see. Beautiful, charming, and musically correct, she held the audience in her small hand from beginning to end. By their applause they left no doubt of their admiration.

Natalie Tremaine as Musetta also was well-received.

Gay, pretty, and vivacious her voice had the clear bell-like quality so perfect for this part. Her entrance in the traditional red velvet gown with her perky little swaggle drew a storm of applause.

RODOLFO, sung by Peter Paul Linder, was well-sung and well-acted. His interpretation was emotional, his appearance handsome, and

his voice powerful. He was inclined, however, to ignore the orchestra at times and occasionally made his vocal entrances too soon. No doubt this was because he stepped into his part only two weeks before the performance because of the influenza which eliminated the former tenor from the part. He did a wonderful job, with only two weeks of rehearsal.

The local favorite, Enrico Porta, did not have much opportunity to show his fine voice as he has usually had, but he sang and acted with his usual charm and aplomb. The bass, Arnet Amos, as Colline, had but one solo which he did well.

GARY GORDON is a handsome young singer with a big voice. We hope to hear him sometime in a larger part than that of Schaunard, in which he looked and sang very well.

The staging of the area set aside for the action of the singers was cleverly done by Rick Davis, who also played the comical role of Alcandro so well that it was one of the high points of the show.

Robert Fouk, the television star who was narrator, was very helpful to those who could not follow the Italian words by telling the story in English. His deep voice and clear enunciation made the story clear as it unfolded.

chestra played well and was when a singer jumped a cue, separately applauded. The but it is to their credit that members had some difficulty they did so well.

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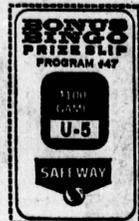
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GARY ALLEN "I Was There"

'Berkeley' Subject of Film, Talk

Stanford University graduate Gary Allen will begin a series of lectures throughout Southern California Wednesday, April 6, at Torrance High School, 2200 W. Carson St.

Allen, teacher, writer, and former football player, will give an "I Was There" report on recent anti-American demonstrations at the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

A donation of \$1 will be accepted at the door and students will be admitted for 50 cents.

"ALLEN GREW a beard and turned "Vietnik" to participate in the anti-American marches staged Oct. 15 and 16, 1965, by the Viet Nam Day Committee. "The Berkeley Revolution," a color-and-sound filmstrip, will be presented in conjunction with the lecture.

The program is sponsored by TACT (Truth About Civil Turmoil). Sponsoring members of the TACT Committee include Dr. Derck Gordon, S. Wayne McFarland, and chairman William Kelly.

Allen graduated from Stanford University in 1958 with a major in history. He did graduate work in social science at Long Beach State College and has taught history and English at the high school level. He also has coached high school football.

HE IS A partner in R.G.A. Films, which specializes in documentary filmstrips concerning various aspects of communism and socialism.

"Civil turmoil such as that seen on the Berkeley campus and more recently in Watts is a plague affecting our communities," McFarland said.

"It can be likened to a virus; its symptom is violence and it is weakening the nation. The more we expose it, the sooner it will perish. It is for this purpose that we have invited Allen to address interested people here."

Further information regarding Allen's local appearance may be obtained by calling FR 7-5862.



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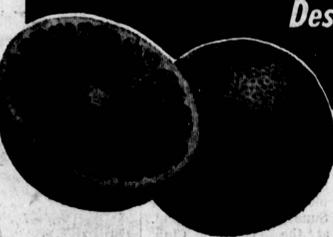
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